

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 NSC-10 SS-15

RSR-01 /145 W

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R 240505 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4083

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD JA EEC

SUBJ: JAPAN/ EC ECONOMIC RELATIONS

1. EMBOFF MET MAY 23 WITH KATAKURA, DEPUTY HEAD OF FONOFF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION DIVISION ( RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH EC AND EFTA). DISCUSSION CENTERED MAINLY ON DEPUTY VICE MINISTER TSURUMI'S PROPOSED VISIT TO BRUSSELS IN JUNE. KATAKURA SAID THIS VISIT WOULD AFFORD TSURUMI OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW UP IN SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL THE BI-LATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES DISCUSSED BY FONMIN OHIRA WITH EC OFFICIALS EARLIER THIS MONTH. HE SAID GOJ IS VERY ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT POSITIONS COMMUNITY WILL FINALLY TAKE WITH RESPECT TO NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT TSURUMI WOULD THEREFORE BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN STATUS OF EC COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSION'S APRIL MEMORANDUM ON OVERALL EC APPROACH TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO KATAKURA, GOJ HOPES MEMBER STATES WILL GIVE COMMISSION A LIBERAL MANDATE, BUT EXPRESSED SOME MUQGIVINGS AS TO FRENCH

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ATTITUDES WHICH HE THOUGHT MIGHT RESULT IN SOME WATERING  
DOWN OF COMMUNITY NEGOTIATING POSITIONS ON  
CERTAIN ISSUES SUCH AS AGRICULTURE.

2. ON ISSUE OF MULTILATERAL SAFEGUARDS, KATAKURA INDICATED  
THAT GOJ MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT SYSTEM ALONG LINES SUG-  
GESTED BY THE EC COMMISSION, I. E. RETENTION OF CUR-  
RENT PROVISIONS OF GATT ARTICLE XIX, BUT WITH ADDED PRO-  
VISIONS TO PERMIT SELECTIVE MDISCRIMINATORY) APPLICATION  
OF EMERGENCY IMPORT CURBING MEASURES AND WITH SOME  
MECHANISM FOR CONCILIATION. HE SAID JAPAN HAD NOT TAKEN  
FINAL POSITION ON THIS QUESTION, BUT NOTED THAT SUCH QTE  
TWO- TRACK UNQTE SYSTEM HAS CONSIDERABLE APPEAL WITHIN  
GOJ.

3. ON JAPAN- EC BILATERAL ISSUES, KATAKURA, SAID EC' S  
RECENT ACTION AUTHORIZING ITALY TO IMPOSE IMPORT QUOTAS  
ON TAPE RECORDERS UNDER GATT ART XIX HAD COME AS  
SURPRISE TO GOJ. HE OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS VAXING PROB-  
LEM, COMING ON TOP OF BENELUX RESTRAINTS ON JAPANESE  
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, BUT HE DOUBTED THAT GOJ WOULD  
EXERCISE ITS RIGHT TO RETALIATE. HE CONVEYED IMPRESSION  
THAT WHILE JAPAN WILL FORMALLY PROTEST AGAINST RESTRICTIONS  
OF KIND UNILATERALLY APPLIED BY ITALY AND BENELUX, GOJ  
ACTUALLY IS RESIGNED TO LIVING WITH THEM AT LEAST UNTIL  
OVERALL QUESTION OF MULTILATERAL SAFEGUARDS CAN BE  
TREATED, AND HOPEFULLY RESOLVED TO JAPAN' S SATISFACTION,  
IN FORTHCOMING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.  
INGERSOLL

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** ETRD, JA, EEC  
**To:** EA  
EC BRUSSELS  
GENEVA  
OECD PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
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